

United for Medical Research



June 27, 2013

The Honorable Gregg Harper
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Harper:

On behalf of United for Medical Research (UMR), a coalition of leading research institutions, patient and health advocates, and private industry joined together in support of medical research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), we write to thank you for the introduction of the Kids First Research Act (H.R. 2019). We strongly support increased funding for NIH, and appreciate your identification of medical research as a priority in a time of deficit reduction and fiscal austerity.

The lifesaving research funded by NIH has already yielded extraordinary benefits to human health and serves as a beacon of hope for those still suffering from disease or disability, including the families of children afflicted with heartbreaking conditions. NIH also plays a role in sustaining the U.S. economy, supporting over 400,000 jobs and generating nearly \$60 billion in nationwide economic output in 2012 alone. Unfortunately, recent cuts to the NIH budget threaten both our ability to improve human health and our worldwide leadership in medical research. UMR believes it is critical to renew our commitment to funding NIH, and we are grateful for your effort to find creative solutions to support medical research.

To ensure continued success in our quest for treatments and cures to our most devastating childhood and adult diseases, as well as continuing to reap the substantial return on investment to our economy, it is imperative that funding for NIH be sustained through regular, annual increases in appropriations. The Kids First Research Act is an important step in mitigating the loss of funding caused by a decade of reduced budgets, we thank you for it, and we look forward to working with you to reinvigorate our investment in the life sciences.

Sincerely,

United for Medical Research

CC: Majority Leader Cantor